

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2003**

PRESENT: THOMAS C. REYNOLDS JR, CHAIRMAN; BRIAN MCDONALD, SELECTMAN; LAURA PETRAIN, SELECTMAN.

GUEST: Keith Pierce, Don Burke, Margo McLeod, Chuck Metcalf, Robert Christensen, Kelly Bumpus.

The Selectmen's Meeting was held at the Town Office Building. Chairman Reynolds commenced the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Selectmen held a meeting to address concerns regarding lawn care. The Selectmen met with Mr. Keith Pierce and the Cemetery Trustees to discuss concerns dealing with the unacceptable appearance of Town cemeteries.

1. LAWN CARE

Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Keith Pierce if he received a copy of the Cemetery Trustees Report? Mr. Pierce stated that he did receive a copy. Mr. Pierce stated any additional mowings of the Three Friends Cemeteries need to be requested by the Cemetery Trustees. Chairman Reynolds explained there are concerns with many of the Town Cemeteries. Selectman Petrain asked Mr. Pierce if the spring clean up had been completed for the Three Friends Cemeteries? Mr. Pierce stated that all the spring clean up has been completed, and feels if there had been a problem with this, it would have been addressed at time payment was approved for the spring clean up. Selectman Petrain asked Mr. Don Burke the outcome of the previous discussion between the Trustees and Mr. Pierce regarding lawn care of the cemeteries? Mr. Burke stated that they felt the issues were due to recent weather conditions, and that Mr. Pierce had stated the issues would be resolved within a week. Mr. Burke stated that the condition of the cemeteries is poor and people are disappointed with their appearance. Mr. Burke then stated there are leaves from last year that have not been removed and along the stone walls are not being trimmed. In addition, the outside of the properties are not being taken care of. Selectman Petrain asked Mr. Pierce if he would like to address the issues on the report individual? Mr. Pierce stated he would. Mr. Pierce stated that he is in agreement that Center Square Cemetery has not been done, that it was an oversight, and he apologized that it has not been completed. The Selectmen and Mr. Pierce discussed the issues with each cemetery on the Cemetery

Trustee's report. Mr. Burke and Ms. McLeod commented on the appearance of each of the cemeteries. The Cemetery Trustee's Report on lawn care of the Town cemeteries as of June 25th and 26th has been entered into public record. The Selectmen and Mr. Pierce discussed the fact that second payment for lawn care services has been withheld due to work not being performed and the contract not being met to this point. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Pierce if it was true that he has refused to perform any further work until payment is released? Mr. Pierce stated he cannot continue to work without payment. Mr. Pierce stated that he needs some sort of payment to continue working. Mr. Pierce stated that his mower had been stolen and had to be replaced and needs payment for the work performed. Selectman Petrain stated that although she is sympathetic to the expenses of a small business, these are not the concerns of the Selectmen. Selectman Petrain stated that the Selectmen need to ensure that the terms of the lawn care contract are upheld. Selectman McDonald stated that at the previous meeting, Mr. Pierce had stated that if he had known the work involved, he would have bid higher. Selectman McDonald asked Mr. Pierce if this is something he can handle? Mr. Pierce stated that he can handle the Town lawn care. Selectman McDonald asked Mr. Pierce if he provides service to any other municipalities? Mr. Pierce stated that he no longer provided service to any other municipalities. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Chuck Metcalf if he has any concerns regarding lawn care for Parks and Recreation? Mr. Metcalf stated that anytime he has had a concern, he has contacted Mr. Pierce and it has been taken care of promptly. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Pierce how long he estimates completion of the cemeteries? Mr. Pierce stated that it will take two weeks to address all the concerns regarding the cemeteries. Chairman Reynolds, Selectman McDonald and Selectman Petrain agreed that payment cannot be released until the work is completed. Chairman Reynolds stated when the Cemetery Trustees state the work has been completed, the payment will be released. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Pierce his feeling on this. Mr. Pierce stated he was not happy, but has no choice in the matter.

2. MANIFESTS

Chairman Reynolds authorized the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated July 8, 2003 and July 10, 2003. Accounts Payable – \$122,869.29, Gross Payrolls - \$27,773.38, for a total of - \$150,642.67. Seconded by Selectman Petrain. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectmen McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A True Record

Kelly Bumpus, Recording Secretary